

## CLAIMS

1. A cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool which is employed in a substrate for a surface coated gear cutting tool obtained by forming a hard coated layer on a surface of said substrate,  
said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool comprising a WC- $\beta$ t-Co based cemented carbide,  
wherein a content of Co forming a binder phase of said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool is in a range of 12 to 17 wt%, and  
among components of a  $\beta$ t solid solution forming a hard phase of said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool, a content of components excluding WC is in a range of 15 to 20 wt%, and a total content of Ta carbonitride and Nb carbonitride is in a range of 5 to 8 wt%.
2. A cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein a Nb content  $D_{Nb}$  and a Ta content  $D_{Ta}$  in said  $\beta$ t solid solution satisfy a relational expression of  $D_{Nb}/(D_{Nb}+D_{Ta}) \geq 0.7$ .
3. A cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein a fracture toughness at room temperature is in a range of 9.5 to 13 MPa(m)<sup>1/2</sup>.
4. A surface coated gear cutting tool comprising a cemented carbide material for surface coated gear cutting tools according to claim 1.